

**REMARKS**

By way of this preliminary amendment, original claims 2-3, 6, 8, 12-15, 19, 30, 34-36, 40-41, 43-44, 53-54, 57-58, 62, 64, 73, 75, 77, 79, 83-94, 96-101 and 103-106 have been cancelled without prejudice to their further prosecution. The written opinion previously issued by the USPTO as the International Searching Authority for the corresponding international patent application concluded that all pending claims meet the criteria of novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability. *Therefore, the USPTO has already concluded that all of the pending claims are patentable and, thus, this national stage application is entitled to out-of-order examination.*

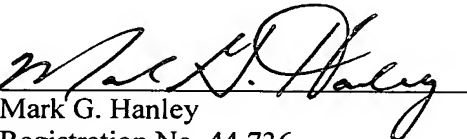
Prompt examination and allowance is, therefore, earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner is of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number identified below.

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